

**Introduced by Senators Romero, Alquist, Bowen, Chesbro, Cox,
Ducheny, Escutia, Kuehl, Migden, Ortiz, Soto, and Speier**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Bermudez, Chavez, Chu,
Daucher, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Karnette, Laird, Lieu, Liu,
Montanez, Oropeza, Pavley, Saldana, and Wolk)

March 27, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to “Denim Day
California.”

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 109, as introduced, Romero. “Denim Day California.”

This measure would proclaim April 19, 2006, as “Denim Day
California”, and would encourage everyone to wear jeans on that day
to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and
never an invitation to, rape or commit a sexual assault.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California and other states have declared April as
2 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month”; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
4 (CALCASA) has declared April 19, 2006, as “Denim Day
5 California”; and

6 WHEREAS, Both events are intended to draw attention to the
7 fact that sexual violence remains an intolerable violent crime
8 with public health implications for every person in California;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,
11 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in
12 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; and

1 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impacts women,
2 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic
3 backgrounds, any of whom can and do experience acquaintance
4 rape, stranger rape, sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang
5 rape, incest, stalking, serial rape, ritual abuse, sexual harassment,
6 child sexual molestation, prostitution, and pornography; and

7 WHEREAS, “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim
8 Day California” are also intended as methods of calling attention
9 to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual
10 assault, as well as the problem that many in our society remain
11 disturbingly uninformed about assault and forcible rape; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1999, wearing jeans during “Sexual Assault
13 Awareness Month” became an international symbol of protest of
14 harmful attitudes about rape in response to an Italian Supreme
15 Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim
16 wore jeans. The justices reasoned that the victim must have
17 assisted her attacker in removing her jeans, which they felt
18 implied consent. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the
19 decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did
20 the protest; and

21 WHEREAS, Every year since 1999, “Denim Day” has been
22 recognized and individuals have been encouraged to make a
23 social statement with their fashion statement and wear jeans as a
24 visible means of protest against myths that surround sexual
25 assault; and

26 WHEREAS, The importance of these issues is underlined by
27 the fact that in 2004, there were 11,483 sex offenses in the
28 United States (in light of the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics’
29 estimation that over 60 percent of rape cases are never reported)
30 and by statistics indicating that every two and one-half minutes,
31 somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted; and

32 WHEREAS, With proper education on the matter, there is
33 compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing
34 incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, As no one person, organization, agency, or
37 community can eliminate sexual assault on his or her own, we
38 must work together to educate our entire population about what
39 can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victims and

1 survivors, and ensure that survivors do not become victims again;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Legislature strongly supports the efforts of
4 CALCASA to educate persons in our community about the true
5 impact of rape and sexual assault in California; now, therefore,
6 be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims April
9 19, 2006, as “Denim Day California” and encourages everyone to
10 wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that
11 there is no excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape or commit
12 a sexual assault; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
14 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.